

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly add new Claim 34. Claims 1-33 are included as a courtesy as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. (Allowed) An isolated L-amino acid producing bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein the bacterium has increased expression of a gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 4; and

(B) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 except that a total of between 1 and 5 amino acids are deleted, substituted, inserted, or added, and wherein said protein imparts to the bacterium increased resistance to L-amino acids and/or analogs thereof;

and, in addition, increased expression of a gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of:

(C) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 6, and

(D) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 except that a total of between 1 and 5 amino acids are deleted, substituted, inserted, or added, and wherein said protein imparts to the bacterium enhanced resistance to L-amino acids and/or analogs thereof,

wherein the expression of said proteins is increased by transforming said bacterium with the gene coding for said protein, or by placing said gene under the control of a potent promoter.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Allowed) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the transformation is performed with a multicopy vector.

4. (Allowed) A method for producing L-amino acid, which comprises cultivating the bacterium according to claim 1 in a culture medium and collecting from the culture medium L-amino acid to be produced and accumulated.

5. (Allowed) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-threonine.

6. (Allowed) The method according to claim 5, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of threonine operon.
7. (Allowed) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-valine.
8. (Allowed) The method according to claim 7, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of ilv operon.
9. (Allowed) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-proline.
10. (Allowed) The method according to claim 9, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of genes for proline biosynthesis.
11. (Allowed) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-leucine.
12. (Allowed) The method according to claim 11, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of leu operon.
13. (Allowed) The method according to claim 4, wherein L-amino acid is L-methionine.
14. (Allowed) The method according to claim 13, wherein the bacterium has been modified so that the bacterium should have enhanced expression of genes met regulon.
- 15-31. (Cancelled).
32. (Allowed) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the proteins (A) and (C) are encoded by the following polynucleotides, respectively:
 - (a) the polynucleotide which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3,
 - (c) the polynucleotide which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

33. (Allowed) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the proteins (B) and (D) are encoded by the following polynucleotide, respectively:

(b) the polynucleotide which hybridizes with the sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 under conditions comprising washing in 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 60°C, and

(d) the polynucleotide which hybridizes with the sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 under conditions comprising washing in 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 60°C.

34. (New) A method for producing an L-amino acid comprising cultivating the bacterium according to claim 3 in a culture medium and collecting the L-amino acid from the culture medium.